for the house sites have been notified by the A&N Administration vide their notifications dated 19.8.1991 and 3.12.1991.

The revised rates of premium for occupation of land for house sites are as follows:-

Area	*Revised Rates*
Port Blair Municipal Area	Rs. 100 per sq. m.
Semi Urban Area	Rs. 50 per sq. m.
Rural Area	Rs. 25 per sq. m.

(d) Revised rates of land premium are applicable to all cases of encroachment. However, poor category of persons have been exempted from payment of premium for allotment of house sites.

(e) Two representations were received by the A&N Administration requesting for scrapping the revised rates of premium in all cases. These representations were examined by the A&N Administration. However, the request made in the aforesaid representations was not acceded to.

Setting up of Special Development Board in Bolangir District

3875. SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Special Development Board in Bolangir district of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) No such proposal has been received from the Government of Orissa.

(b) Does not arise.

Mallappuram District Uncovered by Dooradarshan

3876. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire Mallapuram District in Kerala is not covered by the present arrangement of telecasting by Doordarshan from Thiruvanathapuram Station; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to cover the entire area?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) (a) and (b). Whereas the low power (100 W) TV transmitter functioning at Mallapuram relays National Programmes put out from Delhi, almost the entire Mallapuram district is expected to receive regional service programmes of Doordarshan Kendra, Thiruvananthapuram, subject to local terrain conditions, when the high power (10 KW) TV transmitter under implementation at Kozhikode in Kerala in replacement of the existing low power (100 W) transmitter there, is commissioned into service.

Farakka Thermal Power Station

3877. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the ashes of the Farakka Thermal Power Project have been increasingly creating a new layer on the surface of corn fields spread over a vast area adjacent to the plant;

(b) if so, whether Government has made any assessment of the loss to the farmers have already to suffer for the decline in the fertility of their lands;

(c) whether any measure to compensate the loss of the farmers and to check further degradation of the land has been contemplated by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Ash from Farakka Super Thermal Power Project is not increasingly creating a new layer on the surface of corn fields spread over a vast area adjacent to the plant. However, during the recent floods in October, 1991 which occurred in the area, some ash which was deposited earlier in the Kangoli river bed escaped into the neighbouring fields due to the breaches in the banks of this river.

(b) to (d). No assessment has been possible so far because of the standing crops in the area. Block Development Officer of the area is seized of the matter.

Benefit of Electronic Media in Remote Areas

3878. SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA NAYAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide the benefit of electronic media in remote areas inhabited by Adivasis and other weaker sections of society in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMAITON AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. While the objective of All India Radio and Doordarshan is to provide radio and TV coverage respectively to the entire population of the country in a phased manner, due priority is given to extend such coverage to hilly and remote areas, mostly inhabited by Adivasis and other weaker sections. On completion of the ongoing schemes under implementation, sizeable areas of tribal districts are expected to be covered.

Proposal to Free Convicts Awarded Life Term

3879. SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the occasion of Republic Day Government propose to free convicts who have been awarded life term and are in jails for 15 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c). 'Prisons' being a state subject, the State Governments are competent to take a view in this regard. Under the Constitution the Governor of a State has the power to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person, convicted of any offence, against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.